

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants respectfully acknowledge that the Examiner has indicated that claim 2, which has been objected to, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 19 and 20 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 4, 21 and 22 have been canceled by the present response.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action of November 10, 2004, claims 1, 3, 5 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,688,126 B1, (hereinafter "Kim") in view of Junge et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,881,567 (hereinafter "Junge") and Premaza, U.S. Patent No. 3,839,880. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 4, 21 and 22 have been canceled without in any way acquiescing in the propriety of the above-noted rejection.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate all of the limitations of the objected to claim 2 in compliance with the Examiner's indication.

Applicants' incorporation of the features of claim 2 into claim 1 is made without in any way acquiescing in the propriety of any of the rejection made by the Examiner. Rather these amendments are made only to expedite allowance of the present application.

In particular Applicants note that Kim et al. is an inappropriate basis for the rejection of any claim in the present application based at least on the foreign priority of the present application.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.


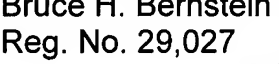
Independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance at least in view of the amendments and the above-noted remarks. Dependent claims 3, 5, 19 and 20 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of their dependence from the allowable base claim and also at least based upon their recitations of additional features of the present invention. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance thereof be given.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

P23876.A03

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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